

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Presently amended) A self watering system for plant displays, wherein said system comprises:

a display support structure ~~having downwardly extending legs~~;
a top on said display support structure;
said top having side panels and a bottom having a water tight connection;
a reservoir having a plurality of perforations placed in said top between said side panels;
said reservoir capable of supporting plants without submersing said plants in water;
a water supply for providing water in said reservoir and said perforations; and
a capillary mat ~~for wicking water~~ placed on top of said reservoir for wicking water
uniformly from said reservoir to plants placed on said capillary mat.

2. Canceled

3. (Presently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said reservoir includes:
a thickness sufficient to prevent said capillary mat from being substantially submersed in
the water.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said capillary mat includes:
a material for the plants to sit upon while wicking water from said reservoir to the root
structure of the plants.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said capillary mat includes:
a material formed from a woven barrier fabric for the plants to sit upon while wicking
water from said reservoir to the root structure of the plants.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said water supply includes:
at least one water supply pipe extending along one side of said top and having a series of spaced perforations for providing water evenly to said reservoir.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said system includes:
at least one stand pipe for allowing said top to drain to prevent overfilling.

8. (Presently amended) A self watering system for plant displays, wherein said system comprises:

- a display support structure ~~having downwardly extending legs~~;
- a top on said display support structure;
- said top having side panels and a bottom having a water tight connection;
- a reservoir having a series of perforations for holding water placed in said top between said side panels;
- said reservoir capable of supporting plants without submersing said plants in water;
- at least one water supply pipe extending along one side of said top for providing water in said reservoir and said perforations; and
- a capillary mat placed on top of said reservoir to uniformly transport water to the plants on reservoir.

9. (Presently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein said reservoir includes:
a thickness sufficient to prevent said capillary mat from being substantially submersed in the water.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said capillary mat includes:
a material for the plants to sit upon while wicking water from said reservoir to the root structure of the plants.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said capillary mat includes:
a material formed from a woven barrier fabric for the plants to sit upon while wicking water from said reservoir to the root structure of the plants.
12. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said water supply includes:
said at least one water supply pipe having a series of spaced perforations for providing water evenly to said reservoir.
13. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said system includes:
at least one stand pipe for allowing said top to drain to prevent overfilling.
14. (Presently amended) A method for self watering of plants on a display structure ~~with downwardly extending legs~~ having a top with side panels and a bottom, said method includes:
providing a reservoir having a plurality of perforations on said bottom capable of supporting the plants;
providing a water supply to provide water to said reservoir;
providing a capillary mat on top of said reservoir for supporting the plants and for absorbing water from said reservoir until said capillary mat is uniformly saturated;
wherein the roots of the plants absorb water from said saturated capillary mat.
15. Canceled
16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said step of providing said water supply includes:
providing a water supply pipe along one side of said top having a plurality of perforations for providing water evenly across said reservoir.
17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said step of providing a capillary mat includes:
providing a mat formed from a woven barrier fabric that plants may sit upon.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 14 and 16 - 17 are currently pending in this application.

Response to Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8 – 10, and 14 were rejected as anticipated by Lanz. Lanz discloses a plant watering system having a reservoir that uses a plurality of rock wool cubes (7) extending through molded spacers (5, 6) elevated over the support surface of a glass fiber mat as an excess length to wick the water in the reservoir up to the plants. Lanz does not disclose a capillary mat that wicks water from the reservoir to the plants.

It has been clearly established that under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), in order for a reference to anticipate a claimed invention, it must disclose every limitation of the claimed invention. In this instance, Lanz fails to disclose the limitation of the capillary mat that wicks the water from the reservoir to the plants. Instead, Lanz uses a plurality of rock wool cubes extending above the glass fiber mat to wick the water. This causes uneven distribution of the water, depending on the location of the cubes, the size of the cubes and the ability of individual cubes to wick the water. Thus claims 1, 3, 4, 8 – 10 and 14 are not anticipated by Lanz.

Further, claims 3 and 9 have been amended to clarify that the capillary mat is of sufficient thickness so that the mat is not substantially immersed in the water. The rock wool cubes of Lanz are substantially immersed in the water supply.

Response to Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 5, 11 and 17 were rejected as unpatentable over Lanz in view of Solomon. As discussed above, Lanz discloses a plant watering system having a reservoir with molded spacers to support the plants. Water is wicked upwards through the molded spacers by rock wool cubes extending above the surface of a glass fiber mat. Lanz does not disclose a capillary mat that wicks the water uniformly from the reservoir. Instead, Lanz uses a plurality of rock wool cubes for this purpose which fail to distribute the water uniformly. Solomon discloses a capillary mat that wicks water through the ends of the mat to the plants supported on the mat. This mat does not distribute the water uniformly, as the plants at the ends of the mat will receive more water